

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 201

BY REPRESENTATIVE OURSO

SCHOOLS/DISTRICTS: Creates a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts in Louisiana

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts for
3 elementary and secondary education in Louisiana, to submit a preliminary written
4 report on the status of the study proceedings by not later than March 1, 2016, and to
5 submit a final written report of study findings, conclusions, and recommendations
6 to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not
7 later than sixty days prior to the beginning of the 2017 Regular Session of the
8 Legislature of Louisiana.

9 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that it is the goal of the public
10 educational system "to provide learning environments and experiences, at all stages of
11 human development, that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that
12 every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential"; and

13 WHEREAS, in keeping with this goal, the state's public educational system provides
14 learning environments and experiences to the children of this state through public elementary
15 and secondary schools administered by the various parishes, cities, and other local public
16 school districts throughout the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Louisiana's public educational system does not include independent
18 school districts; and

19 WHEREAS, an independent school district is a type of school district used in some
20 states for elementary and secondary education which operates as an entity that is
21 independent and separate from any municipality, county, or state; and

1 WHEREAS, independent school districts have the authority to establish and manage
2 diverse educational opportunities within their set geographical boundaries and may include
3 such benefits as increased school choice for parents and students and increased school
4 efficiency and teacher pay through healthy competition among schools; and

5 WHEREAS, other advantages of independent school districts may include better
6 serving student needs and priorities and positive impacts on the local economy and
7 taxpayers; and

8 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
9 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is imperative that a balanced
10 group of experts thoroughly study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts
11 for elementary and secondary education in Louisiana.

12 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
13 create a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts for
14 elementary and secondary education in Louisiana, to submit a preliminary written report on
15 the status of the study proceedings by not later than March 1, 2016, and to submit a final
16 written report of study findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House Committee
17 on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the
18 beginning of the 2017 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall be composed of the
20 following members:

21 (1) The state superintendent of education or his designee.

22 (2) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or his
23 designee.

24 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Education or his designee.

25 (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education or his designee.

26 (5) A member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, selected by the speaker
27 of the House.

28 (6) A member of the Louisiana Senate, selected by the president of the Senate.

29 (7) A representative from each of the following organizations selected by the
30 presiding officer of the organization:

- 1 (a) The Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana.
- 2 (b) The Council for a Better Louisiana.
- 3 (c) The Louisiana School Boards Association.
- 4 (d) The Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- 5 (e) The Louisiana Association of Principals.
- 6 (f) The Louisiana Association of Educators.
- 7 (g) The Louisiana Federation of Teachers.
- 8 (h) The Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana.
- 9 (i) The Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.
- 10 (j) The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.
- 11 (k) The Louisiana Parent Teacher Organization.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study the task force shall
13 consider all of the following:

- 14 (1) The basic process for establishing independent school districts.
- 15 (2) The financial, economical, demographic, legal, and geographic implications and
16 effects of the establishment of independent school districts including but not limited to any
17 projected sales tax and property tax revenue streams for such districts and how state funding
18 will be provided to the districts.
- 19 (3) The enrollment capacity of such newly created districts relative to the demand
20 for public school services.
- 21 (4) The degree to which the existing capital infrastructures can accommodate such
22 enrollment and the extent to which future capital expansion may be required.
- 23 (5) Compliance with all federal desegregation orders as may be applicable.
- 24 (6) Any other information that the task force determines necessary or proper to fully
25 complete the study.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state superintendent of education or his
27 designee shall be responsible for designating staff to assist the task force in performing its
28 duties and, by September 1, 2015, convening the task force for its first meeting, at which the
29 task force shall adopt rules of procedure, a work schedule, and any additional measures that
30 it deems necessary for the timely performance of its duties.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the task force shall serve without
2 compensation.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state
5 superintendent of education who shall be responsible for transmitting a copy to each of the
6 organizations from which the members of the task force are being selected or designated.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 201 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

Ourso

Creates a task force to study the feasibility of establishing independent school districts for elementary and secondary education in La., to submit a preliminary written report on the status of the study proceedings by March 1, 2016, and to submit a final written report of study findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the House and Senate education committees prior to the 2017 R.S. Provides for task force membership, duties, and matters for consideration.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original concurrent resolution:

1. Add that the task force shall submit a preliminary written report on the status of the study proceedings by March 1, 2016, and provide for a final written report prior to the 2017 R.S. instead of the 2016 R.S.